United Nations S/2012/472

Security Council

Distr.: General
21 June 2012

Original: English

Identical letters dated 21 June 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

As I write this letter, rockets continue to rain down on the people of southern Israel. In the past three days, Hamas and other terrorists in Gaza have fired more than 120 rockets into the heart of Israeli homes, cities and communities. On the night of 19 June 2012, four Israeli soldiers were injured in a rocket attack, one seriously. The lives of 1 million Israeli civilians remain paralysed.

The glare of each exploding rocket lights up the truth about the situation in Gaza. The only things that Hamas is "reforming" in the area are the capabilities of its rockets to reach further and further into Israel. Today there is not a single civilian good that cannot enter Gaza. Yet, as Israel cooperates with the United Nations to implement a large number of humanitarian projects in Gaza and aid flows into the area, missiles continue to fly out.

The Security Council — which often speaks at great length about the welfare of the people of Gaza — should finally acknowledge a simple truth: the people of Gaza will face hardship as long as Hamas uses them as human shields to fire rockets into Israeli cities. When it is quiet in Sderot and Be'er-Sheva, it will be quiet in Gaza.

The Security Council has a duty to raise its voice about the roar of rockets that continues to come out of the Gaza Strip. Israel expects the Council and all responsible members of the international community to condemn these attacks, immediately and unequivocally. The international community also has a clear responsibility to prevent the illicit flow of arms into Gaza — a key aspect of resolution 1860 (2009) that receives hardly any attention.

Israel holds the Hamas terrorist organization fully responsible for all attacks emanating from Gaza. Israel has exercised and will continue to exercise its right to self-defence, as appropriate, and will take all necessary measures to protect its citizens.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ron **Prosor**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

12-38517 (E) 220612

Please recycle